

Appl. No. : **10/687,523**
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0011] on page 5 of the Specification as filed with the following paragraph:

ClCKb is a member of the CIC family of chloride channels and participates in the renal re-absorption of NaCl; cf. Waldegger S. and Jentsch T. J. (2000), J Am Soc Nephrol 11, 1331-1339. The functional expression of ClCKa as another member of the CIC family, and of ClCKb channels, requires the co-expression of barttin, which thus is an essential β subunit of these channels; cf. Estevez R. et al. (2001), Nature 414, 558-561. The functional significance of both, ClCKb and barttin is illustrated by rare monogenic disorders. The entire nucleotide and amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1) of human ClCKb is disclosed in GenBank Genebank NCBI, Accession number NM_000085.

Please incorporate the Sequence Listing submitted herewith as a part of the Specification.